



## Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 2

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, April 5, 2006  
5:30 p.m. CDT/6:30 p.m. EDT

**Meeting Location:** Newton Co. Government Center  
4117 S 240 W  
Morocco, IN 47963

**Council Members Present:** Charlotte Richey, Terrance Ciboch, Linda Gray, Judge Mary Harper by Proxy (Magistrate E. Nemeth), Larry Harris, Sharon Mathew, Judge Michael Shurn.

**Council Members Absent:** Claudia Clark, Judge Jeryl Leach, Linda Rugg, Eileen Walters.

**Others In Attendance:** Ron Fisher, Laurel Myers, John Rutkowski, James Shively (CWS Coordinator), Jim Burns (Family Focus), Jackie Agee (White's Residential), and Paula Granger (Choices Counseling Services).

### Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Called to Order at:** 5:30 p.m. CST/6:30 EST

1. Noted that 7 council members were present to constitute a quorum for the meeting.
2. Review of the March meeting minutes. No corrections were made. Larry Harris made the motion to approve, second by Terrance Ciboch to approve as written. Voice vote was taken: 7 approved/0 opposed/0 abstentions. March 1, 2006 Minutes approved as written.
3. The Department of Child Services quarterly newsletter of March 2006 was distributed to attendees.
4. Jim Shively provided update on the status of **Making a World of Difference Proposals**. Have sent letters to providers stating what is allocated. In process this week of completing Attachment A and will be simultaneously sent to providers. Anticipate that contracts will be received 4 to 5 weeks following receipt in Indianapolis. All the background and preliminary information has already been submitted. We are continuing to negotiate rates with the other program areas for LaPorte County.

5. We are working with Central Office and the providers on the **Community Partners for Child Safety** programs; the guidelines are continuing to evolve as we learn more daily what is needed. By the next RSC meeting there will be enough information to discuss in more detail. Will be one more set of talking points from Celia Leaird (Designated Project Head for Programs & Services.) This is third or fourth round of talking points before finalization.
6. **IFP and IFR:** Since the last March meeting and at the encouragement of this group and Central Office we worked through issues related to the number of providers and the updated master list now has 4 agencies, 2 of which have proposed region wide and 2 of which are unique to most populace counties. Per RSC request made at the March meeting, Shively did gather information related to projected training costs. (Disclaimer noted this is the best estimate from information he has received for 3 days training for line staff & 6 days for supervisors. The providers have appeared to have stipulated an appropriate number of staff.) Cost of the training itself will be borne by Central Office, cost to region will be staff time by each of the providers.

Questions asked regarding additional training if needed for DCS staff.

Members of RSC want to have at least 2 trained employees per smaller county, and others have more. Char stated she would follow up.

Question re: second set of training for reunification: it does appear the 3 day and 6 day are all encompassing. Further Director concerns: Are we were standing by that these would have to be dedicated caseloads? If staff person assigned to this program, that was all they could do. Now have in writing that split caseloads will be possible. That should impact the cost of service, particularly in rural areas. Shively shared with most providers now to see if they want to make any adjustments to their billing since they can have split caseloads.

Other factor is specific guidelines; the high and low rates pose an unrealistic wide range of unit rates. Providers will be asked to make adjustments based on that before final contract.

Vote regarding the reduction of the listed number of providers requested by Char. Mr. Shively did think that 7 was a high number, particularly because 2 are only going to serve one county. Discussion re: the possibility of withdrawing from this program and each county retaining the funds for the services they use. Mr. Shively would need to have e-mail or written letter ASAP for confirmation of counties that do not want to participate. This is needed prior to submission to the state.

Some still do not like the expense of training providers that their specific counties do not use. Did not include the number staff they are training for Lake Co. The Intensive services are for families in need of quick family

support & restructuring to keep them out of future system involvement.

Homemaker and other services are still in place for the region.

It is going to take a vote of this committee is to approve the plan. Some only want Family Focus and not LaPorte Mental Health, as they have never used them in the past. This would leave 5 counties for Dockside, 6 for Family Focus and 1 for Porter Starke services. Possible that a county not share the cost of training, but since provider is on the list they could be used further down the road. Some have bigger things that they could apply the money too for their county. Reminded that these funds are only applied to Intensive Service Trainings and not for all the services you have used, or will use, the agencies for in the future. Any extra monies can be applied to direct services, listed on pages 2 & 3 of handout.

The Initial Training Allocation is not reimbursed but, services are reimbursable. This is an 18 month shot & unknown if it will rollover as it is not Federal Funded. Tonight list is correct, as Porter withdrew Lifeline and Whites previously. Total allocation is approx \$350,400 for 18 mo for start up costs. Agency could send more or less trainers, figures are projections. DCS staff trained in Home Builder Models? Hope so. FCM and Supervisors need to understand this as much as possible. Intend to have some DCS Supervisors trained, but unsure if each county will have one trained. Ideally, everyone should be trained to make appropriate referrals. Would it be by Judges order, or I.A.? Could be any of them. The more that understand design, accomplishments of the program the better it will work. Mr. Shively said that supervisors would have continuum training to better realize the uses when doing appropriate referrals. Allocation of more FCM's to attend training was discussed, but some questioned that 6 days training may not be needed. Does Home Builders have more Case Managers per office? Judges will not know the program without DCS recommendation, not available for service cases.

Char requested motion to approve this list with LaPorte Co. Comprehensive Mental Health Council, Inc. removed. Vote is not to approve the financial allocations, just to approve Jim to go forward with contracting with the providers. Linda Gray made motion to go with the list of Dockside, Family Focus & Porter Starke, Sharon Mathew second the motion. Verbal vote taken: 3 approved/1 opposed/2 abstentions/1 not voting (due to not understanding motion on the floor). Further discussion ensued, second vote taken and two votes changed from abstention to approval. Updated vote is now: 6 approved/0 abstention/1 opposed.

7. Larry Harris & Eileen Walters have volunteered to participate in the **Community Partners for Child Safety** AdHoc Committee. This committee is to communicate RSC's assessment of community needs to the selected provider, therefore volunteers from the RSC (outside of DCS) are

important. The Committee would work with Celia Leaird and report to the RSC. Shively added that the Committee needs to set restrictions & set monthly funding costs. Need to see long range to establish a structure and guide providers in using resources.

Referrals will be done by: self, school, church, or community and call directly to Family Focus (800 #) not to DCS hotline. They will have more interaction with families. E-mails will be sent in one or two weeks for community volunteers. This is not to be a DCS committee, but a community committee. AdHoc will establish and set standards for community actions.

8. Psychosexual Testing and Treatment of Sexual Perps still needs assessment completed for the program and identify what is wanted and needed.

9. There were no requests for Community Comments for today's meeting.

**Next Meeting Date, Location and Time:** May 3, 2006 at Knox Community Center, Knox, Indiana at 5:30 p.m. CDT/6:30 p.m. EDT

**Meeting Adjourned at:** 7:00 p.m. CDT/8:00 p.m. EDT